

# Main Street Reisterstown Program

## Minutes

**Location/Date:** Reter's Crabhouse, Reisterstown - December 16, 2013

**Attendees:** Glenn Barnes, Mary Molinaro, Calvin Reter, Irwin Kramer, Pat Brooks, Colleen Brady, Paul Davolos, Dave Powers, Carin Smith, Brad Reter, Danny Carey, Benjamin Brooks, Ernie Schmidhauser, Tony Baysmore, Lisa Dibbern, Kim Carmine Drapkin, Vivian McCarthy, Jay Jalisi, Asher Qadri, Elizabeth Walger, Jimmy Roberts, Pat Brooks, J.T. Noyes

Glenn served as moderator for the meeting since Amy sent an email that she is sick and not able to attend:

Tony started with a report about the bus stop at Franklin High School and joked this will be his "legacy project" as he has spent about 6 months trying to bring about a solution. He said the high school principal has arranged for several clubs to rotate the schedule and come out once a month and clean the property. The shelter currently at the stop is considered unsafe by the MTA as the wooden structure allows people to hide inside and is on a list to be replaced by the newer clear sided structures that can be seen at most bus stops. There are currently no funds for the project so they will put it on the list for the next available shelter to be placed there so no date for completion has been set at this time.

On a similar topic, Mary said she attended a meeting November 14<sup>th</sup> organized by Senator Kelley at the Randallstown Community Center to talk about the MTA project. The focus of the meeting was to talk about schedules of the buses, locations, whether buses come on time, are too full, need more added to the schedule, etc. She asked everyone who was on Main Street to voice any concerns so they can be forwarded to the MTA. The person at the meeting speaking was Rob Pond. Also, at the meeting giving out a business card was James Knighton, Director, Office of External Affairs, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202-6806, 410-767-0820, [JKnighton@mta.maryland.gov](mailto:JKnighton@mta.maryland.gov). This project is entitled "Bus Network Improvement Project" or BNIP and will be going on for many months over the next year gathering data. It is all about the movement of people and not really about the bus stops themselves. You can find more information by visiting [www.mta.maryland.gov/bnip](http://www.mta.maryland.gov/bnip) or emailing [mtabnip@mta.maryland.gov](mailto:mtabnip@mta.maryland.gov). He did take a list from Mary identifying past concerns, trash at bus stops, a need for a trash can at the bus stop near McDonalds, and moving the bus stop just north of Chartley Drive either closer to the corner or closer to the steps going down to the shopping center. Mary received a call about a week later that MTA has already observed the bus stop near Chartley Drive and feels it is unsafe to move it up or down so it will remain where it is currently located.

Glenn started the committee reports:

Mary said that the **organization committee** will schedule a meeting soon. She has been working on adding people to the grant writing committee and a few weeks ago attended a meeting with Glenn and Amy and the Dundalk Main Street organizer, Amy Menzer. They discussed how they finance their program as they are the only other Baltimore County community which is in the Main Street MD program.

Paul said the **economic restructuring committee** will be meeting next Wednesday as a joint meeting with the Chamber economic committee and have Don Mohler as a guest speaker. He will be focusing on the Alcohol licensing in the county and how that can benefit Main Street. He reported there

are currently 3 properties taking advantage of the Architect on Call program (the old Tonino's property, the property to its left and Dr. Stuart Zaller) Also, 51 Main Street where Bay Country Rental is located is looking to join the program so there may shortly be 4 properties. Paul explained that this gives them 10 hours of free consulting followed by many to take advantage of the Building Improvement Loan Program in the County that allows for a 10 year interest free loan up to \$30,000.00.

Colleen said that the **promotion committee** can report there was a light turnout for the Jingle & Mingle event although everyone who came to Java Mamma's had fun with Santa. Some businesses asked her to consider another date to bring Santa back since the weather could have affected the crowd. Colleen said that there was also a light turnout for Small Business Saturday. Dan commented that it was a light turnout in the times he worked at the booth which was in front of Bransfield Motor. Glenn thanked Kathy for her efforts talking with merchants ahead of time and setting up the booth. Kim commented that while shopping people asked her about the bag she had and how much it would cost. She informed them it was free and suggested next year to advertise that people should stop by to pick up their "free" bag which will bring them to the booth. Mary also thanked John Eichler at Bransfield Motor for providing free Hot Chocolate, Hot Apple Cider, cookies and candy to shoppers who stopped by the booth. Mary commented that weather may have been an issue. Colleen said that while that may have been a factor that Glyndon was booming with a lot of people visiting Tickled Pink and other shops. Comments were that having a restaurant in their shopping center could have been a big help. Vivian said she thought Java Mammass had a busy time.

Irwin said that the **design committee** feels very frustrated that the small changes that a couple months ago were suggested by representatives, he is not optimistic it will be done before next spring, if then. He said he has been emailing Amy weekly, who has been subsequently checking with Dami about the plan, he has not heard about a date the striping will be done. He said the one faux brick crosswalk was done at Glyndon Drive; but, that is all of the 4 items promised and he is "extraordinarily disturbed" and feels let down that promises have not been kept. Glenn said that he will contact Erin Kuhn at the state with whom he has had success in the past when trying to complete Chamber projects. Irwin said that he is aware that the projects discussed with Delegate Jones were never going to happen until next Spring after the legislative session as well as the Baltimore County request for \$2M which will have to be approved next Spring.

Dan said **clean, safe, and green committee** next clean up is planned for January 4<sup>th</sup>, meet at 9am at Reters parking lot. He said the food drive was successful and he already delivered 5 or 6 boxes of items to the Reisterstown Crisis Center besides the boxes people contributed to on their way into the meeting. A car break in was reported on the Brick Bodies parking lot last week. Mary said she had just sent out a mass email in the Chartley community about a problem last. Dave talked about the details and the email was an effort to stop what happened the previous year of one day followed by a string of problems. Brad said he witnessed the one in Brick Bodies where the person broke the car window and left – it was done in broad daylight – the owner said this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time it had happened to her. Chartley had video of the problem on Janet Road but the person wasn't clear enough for a description and Mary said she just got a reply to the mass email this morning saying there had been problems with car thefts last Friday night on Walgrove Court as well. Brad spoke about being disappointed with the police not being responsive to a request by merchants to have a police car sit in the parking lot showing a presence when he sees them in other locations such as Wawa or the lower area of Chartley Shopping

Center where in fact no businesses are open in the evening. He is very frustrated by multiple requests over the last three months seeming ignored. Glenn said that at the last evening meeting, a similar topic was discussed. At the Spooktacular event when they were in fact aware of increased walking activity and the need for people to cross safely at the crosswalks the disappointment at not having the police presence. The crossing was managed by committee members and people from local businesses since drivers don't seem to follow the law to stop for people in crosswalks. Glenn said he will be happy to put it on the agenda for the meeting tomorrow night when he expects Captain Monahan to attend. He will follow up with Captain Monahan and encouraged everyone to email him their concerns so he can be sure to express them to the captain. Mary brought up the issue of sidewalks being cleared after a snowfall. While this did happen unusually early, Chartley puts an article in the their January newsletter every year reminding homeowners that it is a county law to clear sidewalks within 24 hours of the end of the snowfall. She questioned whether we should put out a similar email to our Reisterstown Improvement Association recipients as there are quite a few along Main Street that still weren't clear when she was walking this morning even though the snow stopped Saturday evening. Some suggested contacting Dave Kirby with addresses since it would be a code enforcement violation. Others thought the friendly reminder first and possibly contacting offending property owners prior to approaching code enforcement would be a better approach. Of course, the issue seems worse with non-occupied properties. Jimmy Roberts said that he has done some volunteer work clearing in Chartley so his children can walk safely to school and that he can be contacted about helping Main Street businesses as well who don't have anyone to clear their property.

Glenn mentioned about the upper end of Main Street. He was specific about the old Michie's property having a board across the front door which is very unsightly. He sent an email to Amy to ask the owner to remove the board and find a new, less unsightly way to secure the building which is now vacant. Several comments were made about what was happening to the vacant businesses up there and specifically because there are two properties with liquor licenses. Were new businesses coming or would the licenses expire?

Glenn thanked Vivian McCarthy for allowing everyone to park in their lot for Main Street events and specifically Small Business Saturday. She said she was happy to help with all Main Street events and reported that the tree lighting ceremony Saturday was very successful with a lot of people staying to socialize afterward.

Mary said there are dates planned for hearings on the Appeal for the Foundry Row Development, January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Towson.

Glenn reminded everyone that the Reisterstown Improvement Association monthly meeting will be tomorrow evening, Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at Long & Foster. We hope to have a shortened meeting followed by a holiday gathering so he hopes everyone can attend.

The next meeting will be held at Reter's Crabhouse, Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 10am.